

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 – 21 are pending and rejected.

The applicants' attorney amends claims 1, 3, 13 and 15 – 20, and adds claims 22 – 24. Claims 3 and 17 – 20 have been amended, not to overcome the examiner's rejections, but to more clearly recite the subject matter of each claim. Furthermore, the amendments to claims 3 and 17 – 20 do not narrow the claims. The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 3 – 24, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3 – 12 and 21 in view of Campell and Beavers

The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over U.S. Patent 4,578,702 issued to Campbell, III (Campbell) because Campbell fails to disclose a passage that has first, second and third openings and that holds a communication medium that extends from an interface connector through the first opening and the second or third openings.

The applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a housing comprising a passage that includes a first opening, a second opening and a third opening. The passage is operable to hold a communication medium that extends from an interface connector, which a communication connector of the medium attaches to, and through the first opening and the second or third openings.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, and discussed in paragraphs 6, 7 and 10 of the specification, a computer system 30 includes a housing 34 and processing circuitry disposed inside the housing 34. The housing has an interface opening 53 that holds an interface 41, and a passage 32 that includes a first opening 46, a second opening 48, and a third opening 50. The interface 41 is coupled to the processing circuitry and includes an interface connector 52 to allow one to couple an external device, such as a camera 40, to the processing circuitry via a cable 38a. When coupled to the camera 40 and the interface 41, the cable 38a extends from the interface connector 52 and through the first and third openings 46 and 50, respectively, and is thus held by the passage 32 as the cable 38a extends between the interface 41 and the camera 40.

In contrast, Campbell fails to disclose a passage that has first, second and third openings, and that can hold a communication medium that extends from an interface connector through the first opening and the second or third openings. Campbell discloses a signal transmission device 32 (FIG. 3) that receives television programming from cables 30 and 31, and distributes the programming to individual subscriber lines 35 (FIG. 3) via couplers 39 and 41 (FIG. 4), distributors 40 and 42 (FIG. 4), and electronic modules 43 and 44 (FIG. 4). The device 32 includes a main housing 37 (FIG. 4) that defines a cavity (shown but not labeled with a number) in which the couplers, distributors and modules are disposed. To distribute the television programming to the individual subscriber lines 35, the cable 30 enters the cavity through an input terminal 301 and is coupled to a terminal block 48 (FIG. 5). The coupler 39 then distributes the programming to cable 46 and distributor 40. The cable 46 by-passes the components of the device 32 in the cavity and connects with an output terminal 302 to provide the television programming to another device (not shown) elsewhere in the network (also not shown). The distributor 40 delivers the programming to the electronic modules 43 and 44 via the chassis 45. Likewise, the connection of the cable 31 to the transmission device 32 is similar to the connection of cable 30 described above, and thus will not be described in detail.

In Campbell's transmission device 32, the combination of the terminal block 48, the coupler 39 and the distributor 40 is equivalent to the applicants' interface 41, and the only passage that includes first, second and third openings is the cavity defined by the housing 37. Because this cavity holds both the cable 46 and the chassis 45 and electronic components (39 – 44), the cable 46 only passes through one of the cavity's openings, not two, after the cable 46 is connected to the terminal block 48. Therefore, unlike the applicants' passage 32, Campbell's cavity does not hold a cable that passes through a first opening and then a second or third opening.

Claims 3 – 12, 21 and 22 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1, as amended.

Rejection of Claims 13 and 14 in view of Campbell

Claim 13 is patentable over Campbell for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Campbell.

Claim 14 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 13.

Rejection of Claim 15 in view of Campbell

Claim 15 is patentable over Campbell for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Campbell.

Rejection of Claim 16 – 20 in view of Campbell

Claim 16 is patentable over Campbell for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Campbell.

Claims 17 – 20, 23 and 24 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 16.

Conclusion

Applicants' attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 3 – 21 in view of the amendments and remarks and issue an allowance for claims 1 and 3 – 24.

The applicants' attorney also respectfully requests that the examiner call Mr. David Mason (408-447-4046) or Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) if the examiner believes that claims 1 and 3 – 24 remain unpatentable.

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Respectfully submitted,

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